

Heart of the Rockies



in Colorado



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Description of views to be
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Denver

Descriptive Titles
written by
Dr. J. Douglas Crisp



DESCRIPTION OF VIEWS

By DR. J. DOUGLAS CRISP

DENVER, COLORADO.

The capital city of Colorado sits forever in the sun. Its residents and those who visit it esteem it the most beautiful as well as the most progressive city in the land. Population, 200,000.

CASTLE ROCK.

Leaving Denver, 33 miles west, on the D. & R. G., the tourist will observe to the left the beautiful Castle Rock. Wasted away for centuries, it is left in the form of a large castle from which the city of Castle Rock is named.

PALMER LAKE.

This is a beautiful sheet of water fifty-two miles south of Denver. This point was formerly called "Divide"—a very significant and appropriate title, as on the crest of this summit the waters divide, flowing northward into the Platte, which empties into the Missouri, and southward into the Arkansas as it winds its way to the Mississippi. This lake was named for General Palmer, the projector and builder of the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad.

ELEPHANT ROCK.

Between Denver and Colorado Springs can be seen due of the most remarkable freaks of nature on the continent.

Nature's mysterious forces have here fashioned out of rock a remarkably accurate likeness of an elephant, so true to life as to be actually startling in its realism.

COLORADO SPRINGS.

The city of sunshine and broad streets, nestling at the foot of Pike's Peak, whose hoary head is seen lifted into the clouds in the distance. It is a beautiful city of 30,000 people, six thousand feet above the sea. In the immediate foreground is the Alamo Hotel, and across it, to the west, wrapped in the embrace of the rugged foothills, is the entrance to the sublime Garden of the Gods and picturesque Manitou.

GATEWAY TO THE GARDEN OF THE GODS.

The Ancients had their legends of the Gods, mortal in form and passion; we have them fashioned in stone, colossal, impassive. Nothing more truly sublime was ever created by nature. The Gateway only is given in the picture. The Garden is reached by carriage from Manitou or Colorado Springs in a picturesque drive of thirty minutes.

THE BALANCED ROCK.

Nothing in the enchanted precincts of the Garden of the Gods attracts more attention than the Balanced Rock. Learning far over, as does the famous Tower of Pisa, yet it has miraculously through the ages maintained its precarious equilibrium. It is 71 feet high, as can be seen by the trees that grow near it, and has been "snapped" more times by the itinerant tourist and photographer than any other object in Colorado.

SUMMIT OF PIKE'S PEAK.

From mid-summer to a howling snow storm or a winter's scene in an hour, is a trip on the Cog Road from Manitou to the top of Pike's Peak. Here, at an altitude of 14,147 feet, is the Observatory and United States Signal Station, one of the highest in the world. Far over the back-bone of the mighty Rockies to the West, and for two hundred miles to the North and East, the eye may sweep the plains. A sunrise seen from this spot is the memory of a lifetime.

THE ROYAL GORGE.

The Royal Gorge, the mother of the Arkansas River, is a gigantic slit or canal in the Rocky Mountains, cut from the summits of the lofty peaks to the very foundation stones. At the bottom flows the river and is built The D. & R. G. Railroad, an engineering feat looked upon as well-nigh impossible. A span, wide in places, and rising 3,000 feet perpendicular to the clouds, it presents miles of scenery equalled in few places on the globe. The Hanging Bridge in the foreground is suspended from immense steel supports buried in the granite walls on either side.

OBSERVATION CAR IN ROYAL GORGE.

By means of the Observation Car every detail of this wonderful ride through the "Heart of the Rockies" can be enjoyed in comfort. As the Gorge gradually unfolds its remarkable grandeur and beauty, stupendous overhanging masses of granite, precipitous cliffs, and roaring torrents are presented to the delighted eye in rapid succession, making this trip one to be long remembered.

MARSHALL PASS.

This is the back-bone of the continent, 11,000 feet above the sea, and reached by The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad after climbing the steepest grade of any line in the world. Before you are the snow sheds of the road that are frequently hid from sight, and in the far distance are the peaks of the range, forever covered with snow. On the Western slope the train passes the foot of Mount Urray, an extinct volcano, 14,000 feet high.

EAGLE RIVER CANON.

Just below Leadville, the famous city above the clouds, is the beautiful canon depicted by the artist. At the top of the picture is the village of Gilman, hanging in the air, as it were, as the ancient Cliff Dwellers built their aerial homes, while at the bottom of the picture hundreds of feet below, is a Denver & Rio Grande passenger train climbing its tortuous way to Leadville.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE BY MOONLIGHT.

Glorious as is the view of the Continental Divide by day, its beauty is enhanced when soft moonlight tones down the rugged grandeur of the scene.

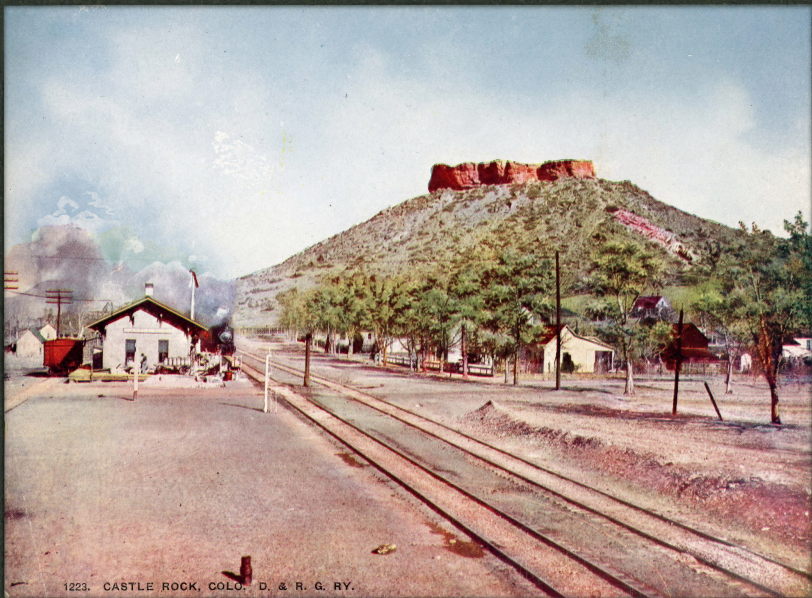
(CONTINUED IN BACK OF BOOK.)



DENVER, COLO.

1196. DENVER, COLO.

1196



1223. CASTLE ROCK, COLO. D. & R. G. RY.



1198. PALMER LAKE, COLO.



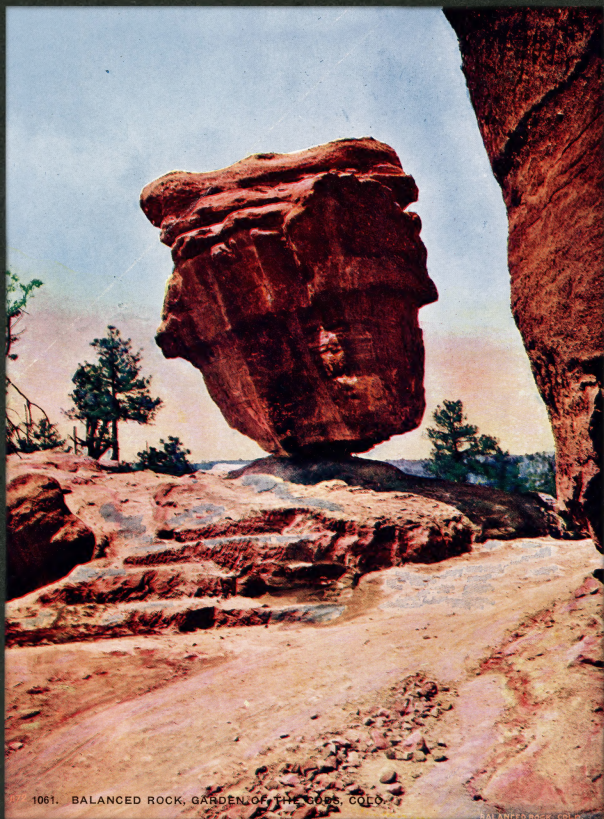
1293 ELEPHANT ROCK, NEAR PALMER PARK, COLO.
D. & R. G. RY.



1187. COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.



GATEWAY TO GARDEN OF THE GODS



1061. BALANCED ROCK, GARDEN OF THE GODS, COLO.

BALANCED ROCK, COLO.





1183 ROYAL GORGE OF THE ARKANSAS, COLO., D. & R. G. RY.

1284





1027 MARSHALL PASS. D. & R. G. RY.



THE EARLE RIVER CANYON, IDAHO, U.S.A.









1031. THE PORTALS
D. & R. G. RY.



Chas. H. H. H.

1913 TUNNEL NO. 2 GRAND CANON. D. & R. R. IV

TUNNEL NO. 2 GRAND CANON

100



1199. HANGING LAKE.



435 GLENWOOD SPRINGS, D. & R. G. RY.



035. CURRECANTI NEEDLE, D.





TOLL ROAD

1994



LAS ANIMAS CANYON. D. & R. G. RY.



1131. TOLTEC GORGE. D. & R. G. RY.

DESCRIPTION OF VIEWS—CONTINUED

MOUNT OF THE HOLY CROSS.

Centuries before the dawn of human history the elements chiseled out the huge grooves at right angles to each other that form the sacred cross. The snows fill the great gulches and let the cross appear, as it is flashed upon a dark screen by an electrical appliance. Just after leaving Tennessee Pass the cross can be seen from The Denver & Rio Grande car windows.

ECHO CLIFFS.

In the combination of ruggedness, beauty, picturesqueness and sublimity, this spot is simply matchless. Grand River and the canon swell out suddenly, forming the beautiful scene before you, as an unreal, spectacular dell of Fairy Land, and then as suddenly close again, where The Denver & Rio Grande tracks pass out in the distance. The rumble of the train and the whistle of the locomotive are carried from one cliff to another and back again, making of each a hundred echoing reproductions.

THE PORTALS, CANON OF THE GRAND RIVER.

This doorway into the mountains rises over 700 feet sheer from the raging stream that plunges out of the Canon. The railway at your feet is cut through the solid granite. Of the hundreds of wonderful scenes on The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad, from Denver to Salt Lake City, none surpasses, in grandeur and beauty, the one here presented.

SECOND TUNNEL, CANON OF THE GRAND RIVER.

(Reproduction from painting by Chas. H. Harmon.)

This canon rivals in grandeur the Grand Canon of the Arkansas, begins at the junction of the Eagle and Grand Rivers and terminates at Glenwood Springs, and possesses walls which rise to a height of more than 2,500 feet. The scenery presents a bewildering succession of bright colors and strange forms. The Denver & Rio Grande Railroad passes through three tunnels, this view showing the second.

HANGING LAKE.

The Hanging Lake, not far from Glenwood Springs and just opposite Shoshone station on the Rio Grande, is one of Nature's marvels but recently discovered. It is a small but most beautiful body of water, located at the head of a gulch tributary to the Canon of the Grand River, hanging in a very peculiar basin, formed in ages past by a gradual deposit of carbonate of lime from the mountain stream. Just before reaching the lake several most beautiful falls are encountered, over which the water pours in veil-like sheets, and the luxuriant growth of vegetation, the beautiful ferns, the masses of green moss and the dark grottoes beneath the falls brings to mind the fairy tales of childhood.

GLENWOOD SPRINGS.

On the westbound trip Glenwood Springs is reached just after passing through the Canon of the Grand River. This is above all a sanitarium, because of the great mineral springs—ten great and countless small ones. The large springs are estimated to send forth every minute 8,000 gallons of boiling water, which is thirty times the flow of the hot springs of Arkansas. Among big trees, lawns, drives and terraces, are situated Glenwood's magnificent hotel, bath house and swimming pool, and less than a quarter of a mile away is the hot cave, where vapor baths with all conveniences may be obtained.

CURRECANTI NEEDLE.

In the center of a spacious amphitheater in the Black Canon of the Gunnison, stands the Currecanti Needle, a towering monument of solid stone, which reaches to where it flaunts the clouds, like some great cathedral spire. Truly there is no gorge in all the Rocky Range that presents such variety and grandeur as the Black Canon of the Gunnison, of which the Currecanti Needle is the most striking feature.

LAKE SAN CRISTOVAL.

In all the Rocky Mountains it would be hard to find a lovelier spot than Lake San Cristoval. A mile from Lake City you pass the beautiful Granite Falls; another mile brings you to Argenta Falls, whose waters come down in sheets of foam and fall with a noise like thunder into the seething chasm beneath; half a mile further and Lake San Cristoval is seen in all its beauty. The lake was discovered by a Spanish monk in the seventeenth century and is a beautiful sheet of water, two and a half miles long and one mile wide, studded with fairy-like isles, while the variety of scenery along its border is the wonder and delight of the artist.

THE OURAY TOLL ROAD.

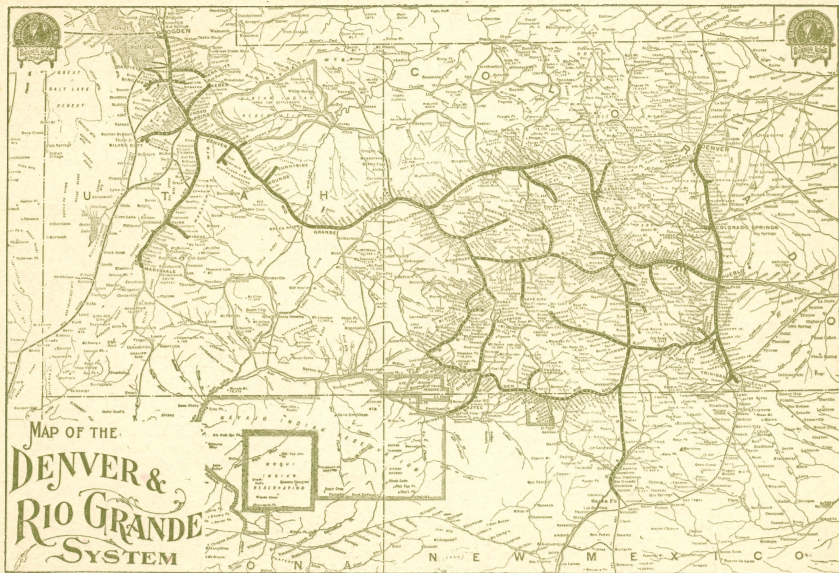
For six miles, between Ouray and Silverton, the highway, as seen in the picture, climbs the mountains along the very face of the cliffs, traversing a mere niche blasted out of the solid granite. In places it is 2,000 feet above the foaming gorge below, from which dizzy height the merest mis-step would insure the swiftest destruction. It is only wide enough in places to admit the passing of a wagon, and yet, despite the awful danger, few accidents have occurred.

LAS ANIMAS CANON.

For a dozen miles north of Durango the railroad traverses the beautiful valley of the Animas—the full Spanish name being "Rio de las Animas Perdidas" or "River of Lost Souls"—with its fields of waving grain, its well-kept gardens and its thrifty homes. Soon the valley becomes more broken and contracted, the approaching walls grow more precipitous and the smooth meadows give place to stately pines and sighing sycamores. The road climbs and clings to the rising cliffs, and presently the earth and stately pines have receded and the train rolls along a mere granite shelf in mid-air, but the startled traveler quickly loses all apprehension in the wondrous beauty and grandeur of the scene, and, as successive curves repeat and enhance the enchantment, Nature asserts herself in ecstasy.

TOLTEC GORGE.

An hour's ride from Antonito brings the traveler to the brow of a precipitous hill, from whence he looks down into the peaceful and picturesque valley of the Los Pinos. As the advance is made around the mountain spurs and deep ravines, glimpses are caught of profound depths and towering heights, and then the train, after making a great detour of four miles around a side canon, plunges into the blackness of Toltec Tunnel. Heights! Depths! Mere words these; but here they are stupendous things. Six churches, each with spires as towering as Trinity's, placed one above the other, would scarcely bring the topmost steeple on a level with the observer's eye.



COLORADO

